

MAURITIAN  
STANDARD

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**14015:2001**

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**Environmental management —  
Environmental assessment of sites and  
organizations (EASO)**

ICS 13.020.10

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**Mauritius Standards Bureau**  
**Moka**

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## National foreword

This Mauritian Standard is identical with the International Standard **ISO 14015:2001**, *Environmental management - Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)*. It was adopted by the Mauritius Standards Bureau in 2009 on the recommendation of the **Management Systems Standards Committee** and approval of the **Standards Council** on 15 April 2010. It was notified in the Government Gazette on **08 May 2010**.\*

For the purposes of this standard the following change should be made:

the words 'International Standard' should be replaced by 'Mauritian Standard'.

\* **General Notice No. 898 of 2010**



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**Contents**

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope .....	1
2 Terms and definitions .....	2
3 Roles and responsibilities .....	4
3.1 Client.....	4
3.2 Representative of the assessee .....	4
3.3 Assessor.....	5
4 Assessment process.....	6
4.1 General.....	6
4.2 Planning.....	6
4.3 Information gathering and validation .....	8
4.4 Evaluation.....	14
5 Reporting.....	16
5.1 Report content .....	16
5.2 Report form .....	17
5.3 Report distribution .....	18
Bibliography.....	19

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 14015 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Environmental auditing and related environmental investigations*.

PREVIEW

## Introduction

Organizations are increasingly interested in understanding the environmental issues associated with their sites and activities or those of potential acquisitions. These issues and their associated business consequences can be appraised by means of an Environmental Assessment of the Site and Organization (EASO). Such an assessment may be carried out during operations or at the time of acquisition or divestiture of assets and may be conducted as part of a broader business assessment process often referred to as "due diligence".

This International Standard gives guidance on how to conduct an EASO. It provides the basis for harmonization of the terminology used and for a structured, consistent, transparent and objective approach to conducting such environmental assessments. It can be used by all organizations, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, operating anywhere in the world. This International Standard is flexible in its application and may be used for self-assessments as well as external assessments, with or without the need to employ third parties. The users of this International Standard are expected to be industry, past, present and possible future users of particular sites, and organizations with a financial interest in the industry or site (e.g. banks, insurance companies, investors and site owners). This International Standard is likely to be used in connection with the transfer of responsibilities and obligations.

The information used during an EASO may be derived from sources that include environmental management system audits, regulatory compliance audits, environmental impact assessments, environmental performance evaluations or site investigations. Some of these assessments or investigations may have been conducted using other relevant ISO standards (e.g. ISO 14001, ISO 14011 or ISO 14031).

Through the process of evaluating both existing and newly acquired information, an EASO seeks to draw conclusions relating to business consequences associated with environmental aspects and issues.

Conclusions in an EASO should be based on objective information. In the absence of validated information, an EASO assessor may be required to exercise professional judgement in evaluating the available environmental information and drawing conclusions.

This International Standard does not provide guidance on intrusive investigations or site remediation. However, if requested by the client, these may be undertaken in accordance with other standards or procedures.

PREVIEW

# Environmental management — Environmental assessment of sites and organizations (EASO)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidance on how to conduct an EASO through a systematic process of identifying environmental aspects and environmental issues and determining, if appropriate, their business consequences.

This International Standard covers the roles and responsibilities of the parties to the assessment (the client, the assessor and the representative of the assessee), and the stages of the assessment process (planning, information gathering and validation, evaluation and reporting). The process for conducting an EASO is shown in Figure 1.

This International Standard does not provide guidance on how to conduct other types of environmental assessment, such as:

- a) initial environmental reviews;
- b) environmental audits (including environmental management system and regulatory compliance audits);
- c) environmental impact assessments; or
- d) environmental performance evaluations.

Intrusive investigations and site remediation, as well as the decision to proceed with them, are outside the scope of this International Standard.

This International Standard is not intended for use as a specification standard for certification or registration purposes or for the establishment of environmental management system requirements.

Use of this International Standard does not imply that other standards and legislation are imposed on the client or the assessee.